

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 SSO-00

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O R 091515Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8890

DIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR MABRAKIS

EO 11652: NA DECON 7/9/75

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MOPS IS LE

SUBJ: ISRAELI NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST LEBANESE FISHING PORTS

1. GOL MINDEF OFFICIALLY REPORTED (MO82248 FBIS)
LATE NIGHT JUL 8 THAT ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS OPENED
FIRE ON SOUTH LEBANESE FISHING PORTS OF TYRE AND
AS-SARAFAND (BETWEEN SIDON AND TYRE) AT 2245 LOCAL.
STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT TEN FISHING CRAFT DESTROYED IN
EACH OF THESE HARBORS AS WELL AS SINGLE BOAT IN SIDON
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PORT AND THAT ONE OR MORE ISRAELI HELICOPTERS DROPPED

LEAFLETS ONSHORE WARNING LOCAL FISHERMEN AGAINST PERMITTING FEDAYEEN TO USE THEIR BOATS.

2. STATEMENT ALSO CLAIMED THAT NUMBER OF "TIME BOMBS" EXPLODED IN SIDON HARBOR AT 0010 JULY 9 WHILE ISRAEL NAVAL SHELLING WAS IN PROGRESS. ONE CIVILIAN REPORTEDLY WOUNDED SLIGHTLY AS RESULT. LEBANESE ARMY UNITS ALONG COAST WERE SAID TO HAVE FIRED ON ISRAELI NAVAL UNITS AS THEY WITHDREW.

3. PALESTINIAN NEW AGENCY Wafa (FBIS MO82203) CALIMED ISRAELI FROGMEN ATTEMPTED ATTACK SIDON AND TYRE HARBORS BUT WERE FORCED TO FLEE UNDER HEAVY FEDAYEEN FIRE ABANDONING EXPLOSIVES BEHIND THEM Wafa LAUDED "COMBINED EFFORTS" OF FEDAYEEN MILITIA AND LEBANESE ARMY TO REPULSE "INVADERS" AT TYRE. AGENCY CLAIMED OTHER COASTAL POINTS INCLUDING AL-BURGHULIYAH, BORJ ASH-SHAMALI, AND 'ADLUN WERE ALSO SHELLED.

4.COMMENT: THESE LATEST ISRAELI OPERATIONS ARE BEING SEEN HERE AS DELAYED RETALIATION FOR JUNE 24FEDAYEEN ATTACK ON NAHARIYYAH AND AS RENEWED ISRAELI WARNING TO GOL IN WAKE OF RECENT ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING AGAINST ALLOWING LEBANESE SOIL BE USED BY FEDAYEEN FOR FURTHER CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS. WE BELIEVE GOL HAS ALREADY GOTTEN THIS MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR, BUT FACT THAT FEDAYEEN HAVE AGAIN BEEN ENABLED TO POSE AS ALLIES OF LEBANESE ARMY IN REPULSING INVADERS MEANS THAT ITS ABILITY TO EXERT GREATER CONTROL OVER PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY IS CERTAINLY NO STRONGER THAN BEFORE.
GODLEY

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